

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00247 120753Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P 111038Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3579

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, FR, SO, FT

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI INCIDENT: SOMALI GOVT TAKES FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

TO LOYADA

1. SDR OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN YVNNA OF FEB 11 ANNOUNCED
THAT GROUP OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS RETURNED TO MOGADISCIO

FEB 10 AFTER VISITING LOYADA ON TFAI FRONTIER PREVIOUS DAY. ACCORDING
TO SONNA, GROUP HAD GONE TO LOYADA UNDER SDR AUSPICES QTE TO SEE
WITH OWN EYES HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES INFLICTED UPON INHABITANTS
OF VILLAGE BY FRENCH GOVT WHEN IT RECENTLY LAUNCHED OPEN AND
UNPROVOKED ATTACK UPON SOMALI INHABITANTS UNQTE.

2. INCLUDED IN GROUP INTER ALIA WERE CUBAN, KUWAITI AND VIETNAMESE
DIPLOMATS, ACCORDING TO SONNA. IDENTITY OF OTHER DIPLOMATS NOT RPT
NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN BUT WE ASSUME THAT OBSERVERS DRAWN FROM EAST
EUROPEAN AND SYMPATHETIC ARAB MISSIONS (I.E., LIBYA, IRAQ AND PDRY).
THIS EMBASSY AND OTHER WESTERN MISSIONS NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED. WE
HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS BEING PLANNED BY SDR BUT
WERE UNABLE TO LEARN DETAILS UNTIL TODAY'S ACCOUNT IN OFFICIAL
BULLETIN.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00247 120753Z

3. SOMALI GOVT HAS OF COURSE ATTEMPTED TO USE VISITS BY

FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS TO ITS ADVANTAGE, MOST CONSPICUOUSLY IN MID-1975 IN ATTEMPTING TO DRAW TEETH OF US ALLEGATIONS ABOUT SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA. ALTHOUGH SOME ARAB JOURNALISTS FAITHFULLY ECHOED SOMALI LINE ON SOVIET MISSILE BASE -- INCLUDING REPORT THAT US EXPERTS HAD MISTAKEN BERBERA MINARETS FOR MISSILES -- PLOY WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL WITH WESTERN JOURNALISTS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW CORRESPONDENTS OR NEWS AGENCIES REPRESENTED IN LOYADA TOUR.

4. IN MEANTIME FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY LEFT MOGADISCIO TODAY FEB 11 FOR PARIS CARRYING FULL REPORT OF SOMALI GOVT'S PERFORMANCE ON DJIBOUTI AFFAIR. INCLUDED IN GUEURY'S DOSSIER IS CHRONOLOGICAL INDICTMENT OF SOMALI GOVT FOR ITS TOTAL FAILURE TO RESPOND TO HIS URGENT APPEALS FOR A MEETING WITH RESPONSIBLE SDR OFFICIALS FROM FONMIN OR FROM PRESIDENCY FROM 1030 HRS FEB 3 UNTIL 1930 HRS FEB 4 -- A PERIOD OF THIRTY THREE HOURS. GUEURY'S ACCOUNT THUS CONTRA-

DICTS MOGADISCIO VERSION FURNISHED AMBASSADOR ADDOU IN WASHINGTON (STATE 32070) WHICH CLAIMS THAT GUEURY SPURNED OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH FONMINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL. GUEURY SAYS FLATLY THAT HE WAS GIVEN NO RPT NO OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ANYONE UNTIL 1930 HRS FEB. 4.

5. GUEURY HAS HAD NO RPT NO CONTACT WITH SRD OFFICIALS SINCE RELEASE OF FRENCH YOUTH ON FEB 7. HE FULLY EXPECTS TO MEET IN PARIS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HIMSELF FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL LATE AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING OF FEB. 11.

6. SOMALIA HAS PERHAPS ARRANGED LOYADA TOUR FOR ITS ENDS AT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK, AS GOF SUSPECTED (USUN 520). IN ANY EVENT, AMBASSADOR GUEURY BELIEVES GOF WILLING TO LET THE MATTER DROP AND SOMALI FACE-SAVING EFFORT BLOW ITS COURSE. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE GOF INTENDS IN ANY WAY TO ADD FUEL TO SOMALI PROPAGANDA FIRES.
LOUGHRAN

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